

[16 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

- (vii) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the State Governments are also taking various measures in this direction.

Deterioration in higher education

2333. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that quality of College and University education has deteriorated over the years;
- (b) if so, the States which have maintained better academic standards and the States where considerable deterioration has taken place;
- (c) whether Government/UGC propose to grade the universities and other institutions; and
- (d) what are the reasons for deterioration and how Government propose to undo this?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The improvement of quality of college and university education is a continuing process which takes into account complaints relating to the subject. It has also been a part of Government educational policy to promote quality at all stages of education including higher education.

(c) and (d) As a follow up of the National Policy of Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) and POA, 1992, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was set up as an Inter University Centre by UGC for the maintenance & co-ordination of standards in Higher Education. The mandate of NAAC is to assess/accredit and accordingly grade the Institutions of Higher Education. So far, 123 colleges and 22 Universities have already been assessed and accredited. UGC has made it mandatory for all the Universities to get themselves assessed and accredited by NAAC.